MINUTES

OF THE

Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association

Spring and Fall Sessions

1917

ELDER J. F. MILLS, Moderator, Marshville, N. C.
J. W. JONES, Clerk, Marshville, N. C.

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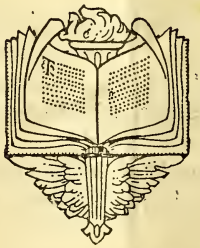

ELDER J. F. MILLS, Moderator, Marshville, N. C.
J. W. JONES, Clerk, Marshville, N. C.

Thirty-third Spring Session held with the Church at Liberty Hill, Stanly County, North Carolina, commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1917.

Also of the Eighty-sixth Annual Fall Session held with the Church at Jerusalem, Anson County, North Carolina, commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1917.

BEAR CREEK ASSOCIATION

SPRING SESSION

Liberty Hill, Stanly County, N. C.,
Saturday, May 5, 1917

Assembled at the stand at eleven o'clock A. M., and the introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. F. Mills from 8th and 9th verses of 3rd Psalms. Intermission one hour.

At 1:30 P. M., the ministers and messengers present convened in the house. Praise and prayer by Elder A. G. Morton. The moderator resumed his seat and proceeded thus:

1. Called for letters from the several churches composing this Association. Letters handed in, and read by Brother J. E. Russell.

2. Re-elected Elder J. F. Mills moderator and J. W. Jones clerk.

3. Invited visiting messengers from sister Associations to seats. Elder S. J. Reich, of Salem, present and seated.

4. Invited visiting brethren from sister Associations to seats. Elders L. F. Wallace, of Kentucky, and A. G. Morton, of Salem, present and seated.

5. Appointed a committee of arrangements as follows: Brothers C. W. Safley, J. F. Burrus, W. D. Benton with moderator and clerk.

6. Appointed Elders A. G. Morton, S. J. Reich, L. F. Wallace and T. M. Standly to preach at the the stand on tomorrow. Service to commence at 10 A. M.

7. Adjourned to 9:30 A. M. Monday. Benediction by the moderator.

Preaching conducted at the stand Saturday afternoon by Elders B. L. Treece and L. F. Wallace.

SUNDAY, MAY 6.

Assembled around the stand at 10 A. M.. Song service and prayer, then Elder A. G. Morton preached. Report verse of 63rd chapter of Isaiah. Then followed Elder S. J. Reich (prounounced Rike) who preached from 26th verse of 12th chapter of Hebrews. Intermission one hour.

Elder L. F. Wallace preached from 25th verse of 5th chapter of Ephesians and last by Elder T. M. Standly from this sentence, "My kingdom is not of this world." All these sermons were well delivered to large and very attentive congregations.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 7.

The Association reconvened in the house at 9:30 A. M. Praise and prayer by Elder S. J. Reich. Then proceeded to business, the moderator presiding.

8. Renewed invitation to visiting brethren to seats.

9. Called on arrangement committee to report. Report read and adopted.

Called names of messengers and noted absentees. (Omitted reading rules.)

11. Called on corresponding messengers to sister Associations to report. Elder Mills attended Mill Branch and was received and welcomed. Received minutes from Center, Mountain District, Silver Creek and Mill Branch Associations.

12. Called on corresponding messengers from sister Associations to report. Elder Reich, of Salem reported that they are in peace.

13. Called on Presbyteries to report. Brother Burrus reported that Elders B. L. Treece and T. M. Standly formed a presbytery at Howard Chapel on Saturday before the first Sunday in January, 1917, and ordained Brother P. A. Howard, a deacon of the church.

14. That we return thanks to God and this church and people of this vicinity for hospitality during this meeting.

15. Adjourned to time and place mentioned in last minutes.

Preaching at the stand Monday by Elders L. F. Wallace and S. J. Reich. Benediction by the moderator.

ELDER J. F. MILLS, Moderator.

J. W. JONES, Clerk.

Albemarle—William Solomon, D. B. Howard*.
Bear Creek—J. A. Barbee, A. J. Furr, Daniel Furr.
Bethany—Not represented.
Brooms Grove—W. E. Williams, E. S. Huneycutt, Elder H. M. Williams,
Concord—J. F. Burrus, J. J. Williams, E. S. Clontz.
Clarks Grove—J. L. Helms, Robert Hatley, S. B. Tucker.
Crooked Creek—W. D. Benton, H. E. Rowell, L. L. Little.
Freedom—A. J. Deese.
High Hill—J. J. Hill, C. T. Mills*, William Clontz.
High Ridge—S. Edwards, L. Edwards. J. B. Medlin.
Jerusalem—W. A. Helms*, E. W. Helms, T. F. Mills.
Howards Chapel—M. F. Coble, R. B. Burrus, P. A. Howard.
Jones Hill—Henry Howard, A. A. Morton, Jonah Morton.
Liberty—Elder H. Taylar*, J. B. Whitley*.
Liberty Hill—Justin Whitley, C. W. Safley, R. T. Burrus.
Lawyer's Spring—J. W. Jones, F. A. Preslar, R. F. Tyson.
Mountain Creek—J. E. Russell, W. R. Morton, J. C. Miller.
Meadow Creek—D. M. Hathcock, J. A. Barbee, B. Huneycutt*.
New Zion—J. C. Whitley, W. A. Helms, William Coley*.
Pleasant Hill—E. J. Liles, J. M. Hartsell*, J. M. Stamper*.
Pleasant Grove—E. Mullis, J. S. Thomas, T. A. Helms*.
Phladelphia—Not represented.
Running Creek—E. M. Hatley, J. H. McClure, G. M. Tucker.
Union Grove—T. F. Hill*, A. E. Little, J. D. Hill*.
Watson—W. A. Hargett, E. C. Williams, Joel Mullis.
Wadesboro—W. A. Dry.
Absentees marked thus: (*).

BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPIST ASSOCIATION, FALL SESSION, 1917.

Jerusalem Church, Anson County, N. C.,
October 6th, 1917.

Assembled at the stand at 11 A. M. Praise and prayer by Elder W. R. Gallemore. Then Elder J. F. Mills preached the introductory sermon from Prov. 15 and 17 and Jere. 23 and 3. Intermission one hour, after which the ministers and messengers convened in the house. Praise and prayer by Elder B. H Harrelson. Then Elder Mills resumed his seat and proceeded:

1. Called for the letters from the several churches. These were received and read by Brother H. M. Baucom, reading clerk.

2. Re-elected Elder J. F. Mills moderator and J. W. Jones clerk.

3. Invited mesengers from sister Associations to seats. The following were present and seated: Abbotts Creek, Elders Samuel McMillon and W. R. Gallemore, with minutes; Salem, Elders C. A. Davis and S. J. Reich: Mill Branch, Elder B. H. Harrelson; Silver Creek, Brethren J. R. Moore and T. H. Bentley.

4. Invited visiting brethren from sister Associations to seats. Elder G. M. Trent, of Reidsville, N. C., was present and seated.

Appointed the following a committee of arrangements for Monday, viz: Elders B. L. Treece, Henry Taylor and Brother W. D. Benton, with moderator and clerk.

6. Appointed on Finance committee, Brethren J. E. Russell and W. A. Helms, to report Monday.

7. Elected the following ministers to preach at the stand Sunday, viz: Elders C. A. Davis, S. J. Reich, B. H. Harrelson and Samuel McMillon. Service at 10 A. M. Elders W. R. Gallemore and G. M. Trent Monday. Service at 10 A. M.

8. Adjourned to 10 o'clock Monday morning. Benediction by the moderator.

Service conducted at the stand Saturday P. M. by Elders G. M. Trent and C. A. Davis.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 7.

Assembled around the stand at ten o'clock. Praise and prayer by Elder T. M. Standly. Then Elder C. A. Davis preached from 28th verse of 11th chapter of Matthew, followed by Elder S. J. Reich from 9th verse of 2nd chapter of Haggai.

Intermission one hour, then Elder B. H. Harrellson preached from these words: "Preach the word," and closed by Elder Samuel McMillon from Romans 9th chapter and 11th verse.

The ministers were blessed with good liberty to preach the gospel to a large and attentive assemblage of people, and we believe the Lord was praised and His saints edified.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 8.

Reconvened in the house at ten o'clock, pursuant to adjournment. Praise and prayer by Elder C. A. Davis.

9. Called on committee or arrangements to report. Report read and adopted.

10. Called roll of messengers, noted absentees and read Rules of Decorum.

11. Called on corresponding messengers to sister Associations to report. Reports were satisfactory.

12. Called on corresponding messengers from sister Associations to report. Elder Samuel McMillon, of Abbotts Creek, Reported peace. Elder B. H. Harrelson, of Mill Branch, reported the same. Elder S. J. Reich, of Salem, reported the same and Brother J. R. Moore, of Silver Creek, reported the same, and signified a desire to keep up our correspondence.

13. That we appoint correspondents to sister Associations as follows: To Abbots Creek, Elder J. F. Mills and Brethren W. E. Williams, D. M. Hathcock, and minutes; Mill Branch, Elder T. M. Standly, Elder B. L. Treece and Brethren P. A. Howard, D. M. Hathcock, J. J. Hill and Stanley Edwards, and minutes; to Salem, Elder J. F. Mills, Elder Henry Taylor, Brother J. F. Burrus, and minutes; to Silver Creek, Elder Henry Taylor and Brother W. E. Williams, and minutes; to Center and Mountain District each a file of minutes.

14. Caled on Presbyteries to report. No report.

15. Finance committee reported. Sent up this year $42.10

16. Treasurer reported nothing in treasury, and due clerk ---------- .40

Total fund available---------- $41.70

17. That next Spring Session of this Association be held with the church at Bear Creek, Stanly County, N. C., 10 miles west of the city of Albemarle, and 9 miles about northwest of the town of Oakboro, and to commence on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1918. That we appoint Elder J. E. Williams to preach the introductory sermon; Elder B. L. Treece his alternate.

And that the fall session convene with the church at

Mountain Creek, Stanly county, N. C., about 7 miles east of Albemarle near the little town of Palistine and close to Badin, and commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1918. Elder Henry Taylor to preach the introductory sermon; Elder Mills his alternate.

18. That the clerk superintend the printing of one thousand copies of these minutes and distribute as usual and that we give him eight dollars for his services this year.

19. That we return thanks to God, this church and kind friends of this community for their utmost kindness and hospitality during this meeting.

20. Above minutes read before the Association and approved, with request that above-mentioned meetings be published in The Landmark and Primitive Baptist, and that any surplus funds on hand be given to ministers present.

21. Adjourned to times and places above mentioned. Benediction by the moderator.

While the business session was being held in the house, preaching service was conducted at the stand by Elders W. R. Gallemore and G. M. Trent.

ELDER J. F. MILLS, Moderator.
J. W. JONES, Clerk.

CHURCH MESSENGERS.

FALL SESSION, 1917.

Albemarle—Willie Solomon, G. A. Hope, D. B. Howard.

Bear Creek—Aaron Furr, J. A. Barbee, Daniel Furr.

Bethany—By letter.

Brooms Grove—Elder H. M. Wlliams, W. E. Williams, E. S. Huneycutt*.

Concord—Elder W. R. Helms*, J. J. Williams, J. F. Burrus.

Clarks Grove—R. M. Hatley, J. L. Helms, S. B. Tucker.

Crooked Creek—W. D. Benton, H. E. Rowell, H. M. Green.

Freedom—A. J. Deese.

High Hill—W. M. Clontz, J. J. Hill, D. S. Jones.

High Ridge—J. P. Rushing, Lonnie Thomas, Levander Edwards.

Howards Chapel—M. F. Coble, J. A. Hinson, P. A. Howard.

Jerusalem—W. A. Helms, T. F. Mills, E. W. Helms.

Jones Hill—H. F. Curlee, Henry Howard, A. A. Morton.

Liberty—Elder Henry Taylor, J. B. Whitley, S. D. Outen.

Liberty Hill—Justin Whitley, R. T. Burrus, C. W. Safley.

Lawyers Spring—J. W. Jones, C. B. Edwards, R. F. Tyson.

Meadow Creek—B. Huneycutt, J. A. Barbee*, D. M. Hathcock.

Mountain Creek—J. E. Russell, Elder B. L. Treece, W. R. Morton*.

New Zion—W. A. Helms*, J. R. Whitley, Elder T. M. Standley.

Pleasant Hill—

Pleasant Grove—H. B. Godwin, J. S. Thomas, L. L. Griffin.

Philadelphia—F. N. Gardner*, Julius Beam*, Foster Beam*.

Running Creek—E. M. Hatley*, W. H. Hatley, J. H. McClure.

Union Grove—F. L. Baucom, T. A. McClellan, I. N. Medlin.

Watson—E. C. Williams, W. A. Hargett, Joel Mullis.

Absentees marked thus, (*).

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1917.

CHURCHES	By Exp. and Baptism	Received by Lette	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Membership	Contribution
Albemarle	7				1		17	$ 1.50
Bear Creek	1					2	27	1.50
Bethany						1	2	.80
Brooms Grove							9	.85
Concord	3			2	2		22	1.50
Clarks Grove		1					15	1.05
Crooked Creek						1	26	1.50
Freedom							4	.25
High Hill	2		3	1		2	35	3.75
High Ridge						1	22	1.30
Howards Chapel	2		2			1	35	1.50
Jerusalem	5					1	22	3.00
Jones Hill							22	1.00
Liberty							21	1.50
Liberty Hill	3					1	24	1.55
Lawyers Spring	7	2		1			40	4.60
Meadow Creek						1	21	1.25
Mountain Creek	1						21	2.50
New Zion	4	5			2		22	1.00
Pleasant Grove	3	2				1	24	1.50
Pleasant Hill							24	2.00
Philadelphia							11	1.20
Running Creek						1	19	1.25
Union Grove	2	1					29	2.50
Watson							16	1 75
Totals	40	11	4	4	5	13	530	$42.10

CHURCHES, CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES, 1917.

	Communion Sunday
Albemarle—D. B. Howard, Route 4, Albemarle, N. C.	3rd June
Bear Creek—Aaron Furr, Route 6, Albemarle, N. C.	3rd August
Bethany—Miss Jane P. Jones, R. A., Wadesboro, N. C.	3rd August
Brooms Grove—J. P. Huneycutt, Monroe, N. C.	4th September
Concord—J. F. Burrus, Concord, N. C.	1st September
Clarks Grove—J. L. Helms, Stanfield, N. C.	2nd July
Crooked Creek—H. E. Rowell, R1, Indian Trail, N. C.	3rd July
Freedom—A. J. Deese, R6, Albemarle, N. C.	2nd October
High Hill—D. S. Jones, R2, Monroe, N. C.	1st September
Hgh Ridge—J. B. Medlin, R1, Marshville, N. C.	3rd July
Howard's Chapel—J. A. Hinson, Aquadale, N. C.	1st September
Jerusalem—T. F. Mills, R2, Marshville, N. C.	2nd August
Jones Hill—J. S. Little, Oakboro, N. C.	3rd September
Liberty—J. B. Whitley, R1, Monroe, N. C.	4th July
Liberty Hill—C. W. Safley, R2, Oakboro, N. C.	4th July
Lawyer's Spring—H. M. Baucom, Peachland, N. C.	1st August
Meadow Creek—D. M. Hathcock, Locust, N. C.	3rd August
Mountain Creek—J. E. Russell, R2, Albemarle, N. C.	4th September
New Zion—J. P. Whitley, R7, Concord, N. C.	2nd September
Pleasant Hill—H. P. Cashion, R2, Barber, N. C.	4th June
Pleasant Grove—T. A. Helms, Marshville, N. C.	2nd July
Philadelphia—Foster Beam, Ellenboro, N. C.	4th August
Running Creek—G. M. Tucker, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.	2nd August
Union Grove—I. N .Medlin, R2, Monroe, N. C.	2nd September
Watson—S. L. Mullis, R2, Unionville, N. C.	4th May

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1917.

Sent up by the churches this year		$42.10
Due clerk from last year		.40
Available now		$41.70
Disbursements		
For printing and mailing minutes	$27.50	
For clerk's services	8.00	
For Associaton, to ministers	6.20	
Total Disbursements	$41.70	41.70

NAMES AND ADDESSES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Elder J. F. Mills, Route 1, Marshville, N. C.
Elder J. E. Williams, Route 6, Albemarle, N. C.
Elder W. R. Helms, Mooresville, N. C.
Elder H. M. Williams, Indian Trail, N. C.
Elder W. C. Edwards, Wingate, N. C.
Elder Henry Taylor, Monroe, N. C.
Elder B. L. Treece, Albemarle, N. C.
Elder T. M. Standley, Concord, N. C.
Elder A. G. Morton, Oakboro, N. C.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the divine word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Art. 3. We believe in that the Scriptures of the Old and New testaments contain the only written revealed word of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice for God's church in her militant state while here on earth.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of Election, that God chose his church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Art. 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, their federal head.

Art. 6. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Art. 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Art. 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and his righteousness only.

Art. 9. We believe that God's elect or church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Art. 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never really fall away.

Art. 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men.

Art. 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptised, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular Presbytery.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment.

Art. 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. A Moderator, or Chief Speaker, and Clerk may be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

2nd. The Chief Speaker, or Moderator, shall take his seat at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned, and after prayer shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as that of another member; provided, he appoint one of the members to fill the chair during the exercise of such privilege, and in no case shall give a vote unless the Association be equally divided.

3rd. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Chief Speaker by the appellation of brother, and while speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject in question, and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in no wise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips and failings and imperfections, but shall fairly give his own views of the case without sophristry or criticism.

4th. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject without leave of the Association.

5th. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

6th. No member of the Association shall address any other member by any other term or name than that of brother.

7th. The Chief Speaker, or Moderator, shall not interrupt one member to prohibit him from speaking until his speech is finished, except he break the Rules of Decorum.

8th. The names of all the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and be called over as often as the Association may require.

9th. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break or violate any of the foregoing rules of this Association, shall be reproved by the Association in any way they may think proper.

Form of Government (or Constitution) of the Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association.

Which was adopted in the date of A. D. 1832, and has been in vogue ever since.

1st. The Association shall be composed of members duly chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association, who producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointments, shall be entitled to a seat.

2nd. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, excommunicated, restored and dead since the last Association.

3rd. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Bear Creek Association, who shall have no power to lord it aver God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power to infringe on the internal rights of the church, nevertheless in some cases, it becomes necessary to have some uniform rule of proceeding, viz: When an offense may be committed by one church against another, we advise the church so offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fail of success, she may call in the aid of two or more churches in the union to assist in the labors, and, if finally, satisfaction in the opinion of the helps cannot be obtained, then the aggrieved church may bring the case before the Association, whose duty it shall be to act on it; and also, when any serious difference may arise, in any individual church, which they all, after due labor had, cannot reconcile, we advise the church then to call in the aid of one or more churches in the union to assist in the work; and, if no satisfaction can be had, it may be brought before the Associaation, who shall act on it, and further to illustrate the mode of proceeding in the above cases, reference shall be had to the 18th chapter of the gospel of Matthew and other Scriptures, which respect discipline for the bringing to trial, and determining on the case of an individual member of an individual church, and the Association will take cognizance of no case of the kind unless the above proceeding be had thereon.

4th. The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper Decorum, which they are authorized to form for themselves.

5th. The Association shall appoint a Chief Speaker, or Moderator, from among themselves for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum shall be attended to, to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before them; and a Clerk shall be appointed by the Association, whose duty it shall be to take a correct minute of the proceedings of the Association, keep a regular file of the minutes, who shall be at liberty to choose his assistant.

6th. New churches may be admitted into this union who shall petition by letter and delegate, or delegates, on examination, if found orthodox and orderly may be received and may be manifested by the Chief Speaker, or Moderator, giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegate, or delegates.

7th. Every church shall be entitled to representation in the Association, but shall not have more than three members from a church.

8th. Any query presented to the Association by any church in the union shall be read, on which the opinion of the Association shall be taken, whether it be considered, and if there be a majority for taking it into consideration it shall be examined, otherwise it shall be withdrawn, nevertheless no query except such as relate to the general union, shall be received from any church which has not been deliberately considered in the church in which it originated and which they cannot get saatisfaction.

9th. Every motion made in order and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it be withdrawn by the person who made it together wit hhis second.

10th. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of their proceedings, and in order to enable them to do it in the most convenient manner, it is recommended that the churches should contribute such sums of money as they think proper and send by their messengers, which, when received, shall be put into the hands of the Treasurer appointed for that purpose, and shall be distributed as the Association may direct for the benefit of the churches.

11th. Presbyteries for the purpose of constituting churches or acting in conjunction with the churches, in or-

daining ministers, or restoring those whose gifts have been suspended by excommunication to thei rformer functions, shall be composed of two or more ministers of the union.

12th. The Association shall provide for the general union of the churches, preserve a chain of communication among them, give them advice in matters of difficulties, enquire into the cause why any churches fail to represent themselves in the Association, appropriate the money sent by the churches for the Associational fund to any purpose they may think proper or necessary for the benefit of the churches, and appoint any member or members of the Association with his or their consent to transact any business for the benefit of the union which they think proper.

13th. The Asscian may withdraw from any church or churches that are disorderly in principle or practice.

14th. The Association may, at its sitting, admit any distant brethren, whose principles accord with theirs, to sit with them, who shall be at liberty to discourse upon any question and give light, but not permitted to vote except touching the general union.

15th. All questions should be determined by a majority of members present, except in the reception of churches, which should be unanimous.

16th. Two-thirds of the members form a quorum to do business.

17th. Amendments may be made to this form of government and to this constitution—a majority of members being present.

18th. The minutes of the Association may be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Chief Speaker and Clerk.

19th. The Association may adjourn to any time and place they may think proper.